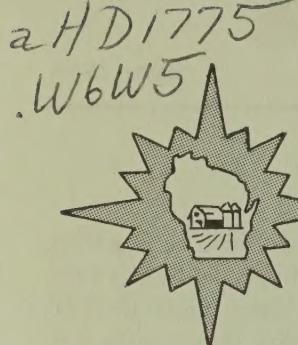


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WISCONSIN

Farm Reporter

VOL. VI, NO. 8

PROCUREMENT SECTION
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

June 1974

Cream of the News

Wholesale prices of dairy products declined very sharply from April to May.

Milk production in Wisconsin and the Nation during May was 2 percent below a year ago.

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for the period ending at mid-May were down for the third consecutive month.

Production of Italian cheese in Wisconsin during 1973 totaled nearly 200 million pounds, an increase of 11 percent from 1972 and a record output.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in May continued to decline.

Cold storage stocks of cheese in the Nation at the end of May exceeded a half billion pounds, the largest amount in storage since September 1956.

Wisconsin's red meat production in April was 10 percent above a year earlier due to an increase in output of pork.

Beef cattle prices at the St. Paul and Kansas City markets continued to decline during May.

Based on weekly estimates for May, production of butter in Wisconsin could be only 1 percent under a year ago after declining 14 percent from January through April.

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation on May 31 were up 46 percent from that date in 1973.

Dairy plants in Wisconsin continued to increase their production of cheese in 1973 while reducing the output of butter.

The hog inventory in Wisconsin on June 1 was down 2 percent from the previous year while the Nation had a decline of 1 percent.

Production of tart cherries in Wisconsin and the Nation for 1974 is expected to be considerably higher than the short 1973 crop.

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market took another sharp drop during May.

MAY MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 2 PERCENT

Milk production in Wisconsin and the Nation during May was 2 percent below a year ago. Wisconsin's dairy herds produced 1,773 million pounds of milk in May, a seasonal increase of 8 percent from April compared with a 6 percent gain from April to May 1973. Production per cow for May averaged 990 pounds, just 5 pounds under last year. The 1,791,000 milk cows on Wisconsin farms during May were 23,000 fewer than a year earlier. Monthly milk production in Wisconsin has been below the previous year since January 1973. In the first five months of 1974, output of milk in Wisconsin was 3 percent under that period in 1973.

The Nation's milk production during May was 10,784 million pounds. Output per cow, at 966 pounds for May, was up 5 pounds from a year ago but the number of milk cows on farms was down 2 percent. From January through May, the Nation's milk production was about 3 percent less than in the same period of 1973.

Milk Production

Selected States	May 1973	May 1974	Jan.-May 1974	Change from last year	
				May	Jan.-May
Million pounds					
Wisconsin . . .	1,805	1,773	7,919	- 2	- 3
Minnesota . . .	942	917	4,394	- 3	n. c.
Iowa	398	354	1,564	- 11	- 13
New York . . .	961	945	4,222	- 2	- 2
Pennsylvania . .	618	632	2,841	+ 2	- 1
California . . .	924	941	4,315	+ 2	+ 2
Other states . .	5,350	5,222	23,535	- 2	- 3
United States .	10,998	10,784	48,790	- 2	- 3

MILK PRICES CONTINUE DOWN

Declines in the prices of wholesale dairy products resulted in a continued drop for milk prices. Wisconsin dairy farmers are expected to receive an average of \$7.87 a hundredweight for all milk of average test delivered to plants and dealers during May. This would be 53 cents lower than in April and 84 cents under March. Milk prices a year ago in May averaged \$6.08 a hundredweight.

222-6-74

WISCONSIN STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

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Wisconsin farmers received \$8.40 a hundredweight for all milk sold in April, down 31 cents from March but \$2.34 above April 1973. Milkfat content for April averaged 3.72 percent compared with 3.71 percent in April 1973.

Grade A milk prices averaged \$8.68 a hundredweight for April, a decline of 20 cents from the previous month but \$2.51 more than last year. Milk used in manufactured dairy products averaged \$8.02 a hundredweight during April, down 45 cents from March but \$2.11 above a year ago. The spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 66 cents in April compared with only 26 cents for that month in 1973.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	March 1974		April price per cwt.			May 1974 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1973	1974	74/73 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.74	8.71	6.06	8.40	+ 39	7.87
Minnesota	3.62	8.23	5.67	7.98	+ 41	7.23
Iowa	3.71	8.61	5.88	8.23	+ 40	8.15
New York	3.63	8.85	6.35	8.80	+ 39	8.40
California	3.67	7.60	5.95	8.45	+ 42	8.55
United States	3.69	8.94	6.40	8.85	+ 38	8.56
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.76	8.88	6.17	8.68	+ 41	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.71	8.47	5.91	8.02	+ 36	xxx
Creameries	3.68	8.42	5.86	8.15	+ 39	xxx
Cheese factories	3.71	8.48	5.92	8.01	+ 35	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.70	8.44	5.88	8.00	+ 36	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	April 1973	March 1974	April 1974 2/	Change from last year	Dollars per cwt.	
					Percent	
Milk for all uses	5.72	8.15	7.90	+ 38		
Market milk	5.82	8.27	8.10	+ 39		
Manufacturing milk	5.59	7.99	7.61	+ 36		
Creameries	5.57	8.01	7.77	+ 39		
American cheese plants	5.60	8.00	7.55	+ 35		
Varied products plants	5.56	7.98	7.61	+ 37		
Federal Order Markets Chicago Regional Base Zone . . .	6.13	8.74	8.46	+ 38		

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

WHOLESALE DAIRY PRICES IN SHARP DECLINE

Wholesale prices of dairy products declined very sharply from April to May. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged about 78 cents a pound in May, down more than 10 cents from April and nearly 13½ cents below two months ago. A year ago in May the wholesale price of cheddar cheese averaged 66.68 cents a pound.

Wholesale prices of Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged over \$1.01 a pound for May but this was almost 7 cents less than a month earlier. Last year the wholesale Swiss cheese price averaged 81½ cents in May.

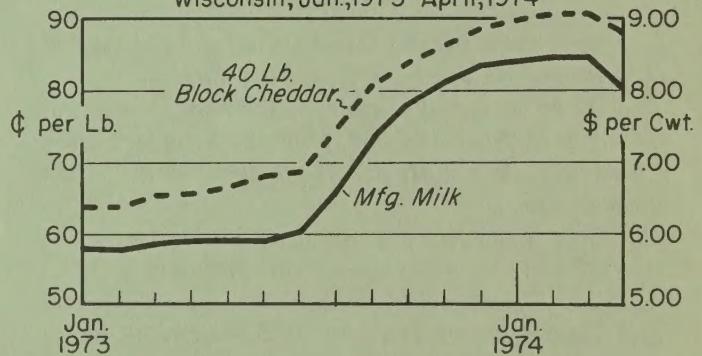
The 92-score butter price at the New York market averaged slightly over 62 cents a pound during May. This was a decline of about 8 cents from April but little change from a year earlier.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	May 1973	April 1974	May 1974 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	61.99¢	69.88¢	62.10¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . . .	66.68¢	88.35¢	77.93¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	81.50¢	108.25¢	101.37¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$8.80-10.25	\$11.30-12.10	\$ ---
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	45.20¢	68.73¢	66.22¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

PRICES: Mfg. Milk & 40 Lb. Block Cheddar Wisconsin, Jan., 1973-April, 1974



DECLINE IN BUTTER PRODUCTION SLOWS

Butter production in the Nation's creameries during April was 6 percent below a year ago but this was the least decline since January 1973. Minnesota, the Nation's leading butter producing state, showed little change in April compared with a year earlier. Wisconsin's butter output for April was 2 percent under the previous year, while Iowa was down 42 percent and all other states had a decline of 5 percent.

Production of American cheese in the Nation during April was up 17 percent from April 1973. Wisconsin dairy plants made 5 percent more American cheese in April than a year ago. Output of American cheese during April increased 24 percent in Minnesota, 31 percent in Missouri, and 28 percent in all other states.

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Total cheese production in the Nation for April was 13 percent above last year. In addition to the increase of American cheese, gains for other varieties were Italian 6 percent, Swiss 3 percent, Brick and Muenster 2 percent, and all other cheese 4 percent.

Output of cottage cheese curd in the Nation during April was 14 percent below the previous year and creamed cottage cheese was down 16 percent. National production of ice cream for April was about the same as the 63 million gallons made in April 1973.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	April 1973	April 1974	Jan.-April 1974	Change from last year	
				April	Jan.-April
1,000 pounds					
BUTTER				Percent	
Wisconsin	18,450	18,150	64,420	- 2	- 9
Minnesota	23,075	23,000	83,520	n. c.	+ 2
Iowa	6,700	3,900	11,980	- 42	- 52
Other states	45,511	43,096	155,179	- 5	- 17
United States	93,736	88,146	315,099	- 6	- 14
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	68,000	71,570	273,120	+ 5	+ 11
Minnesota	19,830	24,600	99,030	+ 24	+ 31
Missouri	6,500	8,500	31,475	+ 31	+ 44
Other states	56,941	72,950	261,639	+ 28	+ 35
United States	151,271	177,620	665,264	+ 17	+ 24
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	15,474	15,965	59,675	+ 3	n. c.
Brick and Muenster	5,874	5,986	23,590	+ 2	+ 1
Italian	48,724	51,443	196,944	+ 6	+ 12
All other	17,491	18,120	66,557	+ 4	+ 2
Total	87,563	91,514	346,766	+ 5	+ 7
ALL CHEESE					
United States	238,834	269,134	1,012,030	+ 13	+ 17
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	70,503	60,838	232,668	- 14	- 15
Creamed 2/	89,131	75,296	291,143	- 16	- 17
1,000 gallons					
Percent					
Ice cream					
Wisconsin	1,150	1,350	5,175	+ 17	- 4
Illinois	3,500	3,450	13,710	- 1	- 3
Iowa	570	750	2,590	+ 32	+ 11
Michigan	2,910	3,223	11,693	+ 11	- 1
Minnesota	2,335	2,130	8,820	- 9	- 8
Other states	52,912	52,540	198,309	- 1	n. c.
United States	63,377	63,443	240,297	n. c.	- 1

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

DROP IN BUTTER PRODUCTION HAS SLOWED

Weekly estimates of butter production in the Nation during May indicate that output could be only 1 percent under last year after showing a drop of 6 percent in April and a 14 percent decline from January through April. Wisconsin's butter production for May will probably be above a year ago. The State's output of butter in April was down 2 percent and for January through April showed a decline of 9 percent.

Weekly estimates indicated that production of American cheese in the Nation during May could be up 5 percent from a year earlier, the same increase as April but considerably less than the 17 percent gain from January through April. Wisconsin's output of American cheese for May could be under last year after showing increases of 11 percent in April

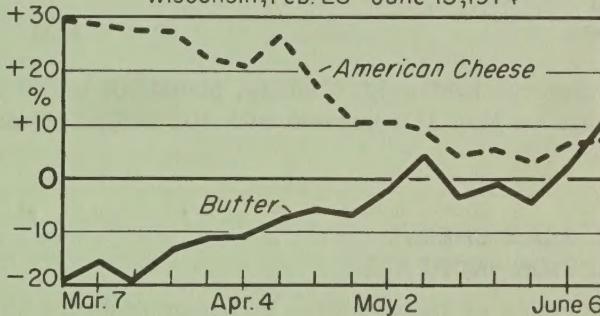
and 24 percent in the first four months of 1974.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1974	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
April	88,146	- 6	- 2	177,620	+ 5	+ 11
Jan.-April	315,099	- 14	- 9	665,264	+ 17	+ 24
Weeks ending						
May 9 . . .	22,750	+ 4	+ 5	41,160	+ 9	+ 1
May 16 . . .	21,700	- 3	+ 9	40,300	+ 4	- 3
May 23 . . .	21,900	- 1	+ 6	40,900	+ 5	- 2
May 30 . . .	23,000	- 4	- 2	42,200	+ 3	+ 1
Total	89,350	- 1	xxx	164,560	+ 5	xxx

WEEKLY BUTTER & CHEESE PRODUCTION

Percent of previous year
Wisconsin, Feb. 28 - June 13, 1974



CHEESE STOCKS EXCEED HALF A BILLION POUNDS

Stocks of cheese in the Nation's cold storage facilities at the end of May totaled over half a billion pounds, up 59 percent from a year earlier and the largest amount in storage since September 1956. Stocks of American cheese, at 448 million pounds, were 65 percent greater than on May 31, 1973. Swiss cheese supplies were up 41 percent and all other cheese stocks increased 31 percent from last year.

Butter stocks in cold storage at the end of May totaled 97 million pounds, down 30 percent from the previous year.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

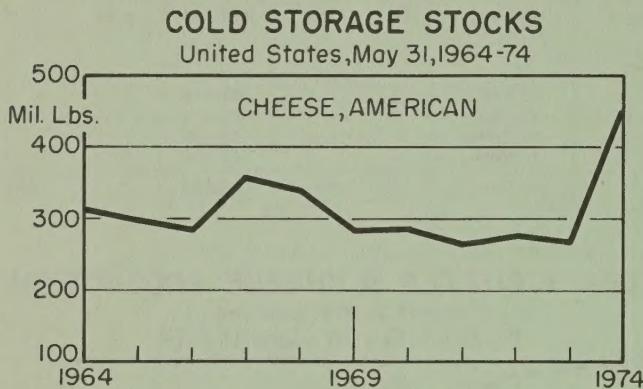
Commodity	May 31, 1972	May 31, 1973	May 31, 1974	Change from last year
				1,000 pounds
UNITED STATES				
Butter	159,105	139,388	97,243	- 30
Cheese, American	275,042	271,104	448,239	+ 65
Cheese, Swiss	8,824	11,564	16,320	+ 41
Cheese, all other	56,513	47,902	62,589	+ 31
Cheese, total	340,379	330,570	527,148	+ 59
WISCONSIN				
Butter	7,570	9,229	5,218	- 43
Cheese, American	157,635	176,984	259,155	+ 46
GOVERNMENT STOCKS*				
Butter	127,283	102,033	8,079	- 92
Cheese, American	403	214	364	+ 70

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products
United States

Commodity	April 30, 1972	April 30, 1973	April 30, 1974	Change from last year
1,000 pounds				
Dried whole milk	5,289	5,256	10,028	+ 91
Dried skim milk	79,367	58,590	88,702	+ 51
Dried buttermilk	5,024	4,741	6,708	+ 41
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . . .	76,475	56,185	76,670	+ 36

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.



The Government held only 8 million pounds of butter in cold storage on May 31 compared with 102 million pounds a year ago.

1973 ITALIAN CHEESE PRODUCTION INCREASES

Production of Italian cheese in Wisconsin during 1973 totaled nearly 200 million pounds, an increase of 11 percent from 1972 and a record output. Italian cheese accounted for about 19 percent of all cheese made in Wisconsin during 1973. Production of Italian cheese has increased more than 3½ times since 1957 when it accounted for 9 percent of Wisconsin's total cheese output.

Production of Mozzarella, a soft type cheese used in the pizza trade, increased 16 percent from 1972 to 1973. Mozzarella has experienced the largest growth in production of any of the Italian varieties, having increased more than 10 times since 1957 and nearly 3 times since 1961. Mozzarella is by far the largest variety of Italian cheese made in Wisconsin, accounting for 59 percent of the 1973 production.

Provolone production increased 11 percent from 1972 to 1973 while total hard type Italian cheeses rose 2 percent during that period. Provolone is the second largest variety of Italian cheese produced in the State, making up 20 percent of the total and just over half of the hard type Italian cheese. Output of Parmesan in 1973 declined 17 percent from the previous year but production of Romano increased by that amount.

Soft types represented 61 percent of all Italian cheese produced in Wisconsin during 1973, with Mozzarella accounting for almost all of the soft Italian cheese. Output of soft types increased 18 percent from 1972 to 1973 compared with a 2 percent gain for hard types. In 1957, hard types made up 69 percent of the Italian cheese produced in Wisconsin but accounted for only 39 percent in 1973.

Italian Cheese Production by Varieties in Wisconsin

Variety	1961	1964	1969	1972	1973
Thousand pounds					
HARD					
Asiago	459	1,155	837	1/	1/
Parmesan	17,108	22,275	18,817	25,157	20,836
Provolone	21,959	24,184	28,922	36,390	40,340
Romano	13,570	13,493	14,115	12,205	14,261
Other hard	53	317	1,170	3,339	3,297
Total hard	53,149	61,424	63,861	77,091	78,734
SOFT					
Mozzarella	39,022	48,011	89,261	102,344	118,648
Other soft 2/	2,482	1,174	588	3/	2,292
Total soft	41,504	49,185	89,849	102,344	120,940
All Italian	94,653	110,609	153,710	179,435	199,674

1/Combined with other. 2/Excludes Gorgonzola, formerly published as an Italian cheese. 3/Less than 2,000,000 pounds of other soft included with Mozzarella.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP 10 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Production of red meat in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during April was 10 percent above a year ago. Output of beef was only 2 percent more than in April 1973 but pork production increased 20 percent.

Slaughtering plants in Wisconsin butchered 82,000 cattle during April, up 1,000 from the previous year. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered in April was 1,144 pounds, a gain of 6 pounds from last year.

The April hog slaughter of 303,000 was 43,000 above a year earlier. Hog liveweight, at 247 pounds for April, was 7 pounds heavier than April 1973.

A total of 22,100 calves were slaughtered for veal in Wisconsin during April, an increase of 7,800 from the previous year. Calves averaged 163 pounds liveweight for April, down 37 pounds from a year ago. The 300 sheep and lambs butchered in April was 100 more than in April 1973.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	April		Change from last year	April	
	1973	1974		1973	1974
1,000 head			Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	81.0	82.0	+ 1	92.2	93.8
United States 1/ . . .	2,407.2	2,898.3	+ 20	2,482.1	3,065.1
Calves					
Wisconsin	14.3	22.1	+ 55	2.9	3.6
United States 1/ . . .	170.8	204.5	+ 20	42.5	48.3
Hogs					
Wisconsin	260.0	303.0	+ 17	62.4	74.8
United States 1/ . . .	6,361.3	7,279.8	+ 14	1,516.6	1,781.6
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin2	.3	+ 50	.020	.029
United States 1/ . . .	732.4	816.9	+ 12	79.4	87.8

1/Excludes Alaska.

WISCONSIN HOG INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

Wisconsin farmers had 1,480,000 hogs and pigs on farms June 1, a decline of 2 percent from a year earlier. Breeding stock totaled 260,000, down 4 percent from June 1, 1973. Market hogs, at 1,220,000, were 1 percent below last year.

A total of 106,000 sows farrowed from March through May in Wisconsin, 4 percent less than in that period a year

ago. The March-May pig crop of 795,000 was only 1 percent lower than the previous year because the litter rate increased from 7.30 to 7.50 pigs per litter.

Hog producers in Wisconsin plan to have 95,000 sows farrow during June through August. This would be 6 percent fewer than in that quarter last year. Farrowings for the September through November quarter are expected to be

95,000 sows, the same number that farrowed in that quarter of 1973.

Hogs and pigs on the Nation's farms June 1 totaled 59.4 million, 1 percent less than a year earlier. The 14 states where quarterly estimates are made had 51.1 million hogs on farms June 1. These states accounted for 86 percent of all hogs and pigs in the Nation.

All Hogs and Pigs on Farms, Breeding and Market
June 1, 1973 and 1974, 14 States

State	For breeding			Market			Total hogs and pigs		
	1973	1974	Change from last year	1973	1974	Change from last year	1973	1974	Change from last year
	1,000 head	Percent		1,000 head	Percent		1,000 head	Percent	
Georgia	247	269	+ 9	1,585	1,521	- 4	1,832	1,790	- 2
Illinois	1,042	963	- 8	5,908	5,587	- 5	6,950	6,550	- 6
Indiana	696	666	- 4	4,104	3,834	- 7	4,800	4,500	- 6
Iowa	2,030	2,000	- 1	12,570	12,600	n. c.	14,600	14,600	n. c.
Kansas	300	283	- 6	1,700	1,542	- 9	2,000	1,825	- 9
Kentucky	225	221	- 2	1,096	1,079	- 2	1,321	1,300	- 2
Minnesota	600	587	- 2	3,150	3,463	+ 10	3,750	4,050	+ 8
Missouri	660	655	- 1	3,590	3,545	- 1	4,250	4,200	- 1
Nebraska	488	476	- 2	2,762	2,924	+ 6	3,250	3,400	+ 5
North Carolina	349	342	- 2	1,766	1,668	- 6	2,115	2,010	- 5
Ohio	317	328	+ 3	1,798	1,858	+ 3	2,115	2,186	+ 3
South Dakota	287	315	+ 10	1,839	1,935	+ 5	2,126	2,250	+ 6
Texas	150	165	+ 10	810	765	- 6	960	930	- 3
Wisconsin	271	260	- 4	1,237	1,220	- 1	1,508	1,480	- 2
Total 14 States	7,662	7,530	- 2	43,915	43,541	- 1	51,577	51,071	- 1

Sows to Farrow, June through November, 14 States

State	June through August			September through November		
	1973	1974 1/	Change from last year	1973	1974 1/	Change from last year
	1,000 head	Percent		1,000 head	Percent	
Georgia	87	88	+ 1	73	80	+ 10
Illinois	400	365	- 9	395	355	- 10
Indiana	242	220	- 9	210	200	- 5
Iowa	610	580	- 5	608	590	- 3
Kansas	85	85	n. c.	105	105	n. c.
Kentucky	70	70	n. c.	65	72	+ 11
Minnesota	210	210	n. c.	206	206	n. c.
Missouri	228	230	+ 1	256	250	- 2
Nebraska	142	150	+ 6	185	185	n. c.
North Carolina	98	102	+ 4	82	90	+ 10
Ohio	112	120	+ 7	115	115	n. c.
South Dakota	80	95	+ 19	116	117	+ 1
Texas	56	58	+ 4	51	53	+ 4
Wisconsin	101	95	- 6	95	95	n. c.
Total 14 States	2,521	2,468	- 2	2,562	2,513	- 2

1/Number indicated by breeding intentions reports.

Sows Farrowing, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop
March through May, 1973 and 1974, 14 States

State	Sows farrowing			Pigs per litter		Pig crop 1/		
	1973	1974	Change from last year	1973	1974	1973	1974	Change from last year
	1,000 head	Percent		Head		1,000 head	Percent	
Georgia	89	88	- 1	7.00	6.71	623	590	- 5
Illinois	500	485	- 3	7.00	6.75	3,500	3,274	- 6
Indiana	250	235	- 6	7.16	7.17	1,790	1,685	- 6
Iowa	980	920	- 6	7.10	7.10	6,958	6,532	- 6
Kansas	125	115	- 8	7.25	7.30	906	840	- 7
Kentucky	80	85	+ 6	7.40	7.10	592	604	+ 2
Minnesota	245	252	+ 3	7.45	7.20	1,825	1,814	- 1
Missouri	279	270	- 3	7.25	7.45	2,023	2,012	- 1
Nebraska	215	220	+ 2	7.00	7.30	1,505	1,606	+ 7
North Carolina	111	109	- 2	7.40	7.30	821	796	- 3
Ohio	125	135	+ 8	7.20	7.20	900	972	+ 8
South Dakota	168	175	+ 4	7.15	7.10	1,201	1,243	+ 3
Texas	48	50	+ 4	7.40	7.00	355	350	- 1
Wisconsin	110	106	- 4	7.30	7.50	803	795	- 1
Total 14 States	3,325	3,245	- 2	7.16	7.12	23,802	23,113	- 3

1/Number of pigs born March through May, that were on hand June 1, or had been sold.

FARM PRODUCT PRICES CONTINUE DOWNWARD

Prices of farm products in Wisconsin for the period ending in mid-May were down for the third consecutive month. The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers averaged 508 percent of the 1910-14 base, a decline of 30 points (about 6 percent) from mid-April and 11 percent below the high reached in February this year. Most livestock and some crop items declined in price from April to May, with the sharpest drops for hogs, turkeys, and wheat.

Hog prices in Wisconsin averaged \$25.70 a hundredweight as of May 15, down \$4.40 from a month earlier and \$8.90 below a year ago. This was the lowest monthly average price for hogs since June 1972.

Steers and heifers averaged \$35.00 a hundredweight in mid-May, a decline of \$1.90 from April and \$7.70 less than May 1973. Slaughter cows, at \$29.00 a hundredweight for May, were \$2.00 under the previous month and \$4.80 below last year.

Calves returned an average of \$48.50 a hundredweight as of mid-May, a drop of \$3.60 from April and \$13.50 lower than a year ago. This was the lowest price for calves since January 1973.

Sheep declined 40 cents from April to May but at \$10.00 a hundredweight were 50 cents above the previous year. For the second straight month, lambs went against the trend of lower livestock prices. Lambs averaged \$37.80 a hundredweight for mid-May, an increase of \$2.50 from April and \$5.80 more than May 1973.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	May 15, 1972	May 15, 1973	April 15, 1974	May 15, 1974
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	450.00	570.00	650.00	630.00
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	32.30	42.70	36.90	35.00
Cows	Cwt.	25.20	33.80	31.00	29.00
Calves	Cwt.	47.50	62.00	52.10	48.50
Hogs	Cwt.	25.20	34.60	30.10	25.70
Sheep	Cwt.	5.80	9.50	10.40	10.00
Lambs	Cwt.	29.20	32.00	35.30	37.80
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.085	.150	.125	.125
Turkeys	Lb.	.200	.300	.320	.240
Eggs	Doz.	.220	.460	.486	.432
Corn	Bu.	1.17	1.48	2.48	2.55
Wheat	Bu.	1.43	2.00	4.14	3.30
Oats	Bu.	.71	.85	1.27	1.33
Soybeans	Bu.	3.30	7.90	5.11	5.16
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	23.00	31.50	34.00	33.00

1/Excludes broilers.

Turkeys dropped 8 cents from April to May. At 24 cents a pound liveweight, turkeys were 6 cents under May last year and the lowest since the beginning of 1973. Egg prices declined for the fourth consecutive month. Eggs averaged 43.2 cents a dozen as of mid-May compared with 48.6 cents in April and a high of 65 cents in January. Egg prices in May were nearly 3 cents under a year earlier and the first time since August 1972 that prices fell below the previous year.

Wheat prices declined 84 cents a bushel from April to May. At \$3.30 a bushel for May, wheat was \$1.30 higher than last year but \$2.14 below the peak reached in February 1974. Oats averaged \$1.33 a bushel as of mid-May, a gain of

6 cents from a month earlier and 48 cents greater than May 1973.

Corn prices increased 7 cents a bushel from April to May while soybeans went up 5 cents. Corn averaged \$2.55 a bushel on May 15, up \$1.07 from a year ago. Soybeans, at \$5.16 a bushel for May, were \$2.74 below the previous year.

Baled alfalfa hay prices declined by \$1.00 from April to May but at \$33.00 a ton in mid-May were \$1.50 above last year.

BEEF AND PORK STOCKS WELL ABOVE LAST YEAR

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of May were 46 percent greater than a year ago. Beef stocks showed an increase of 37 percent while the supply of pork in cold storage was up 61 percent.

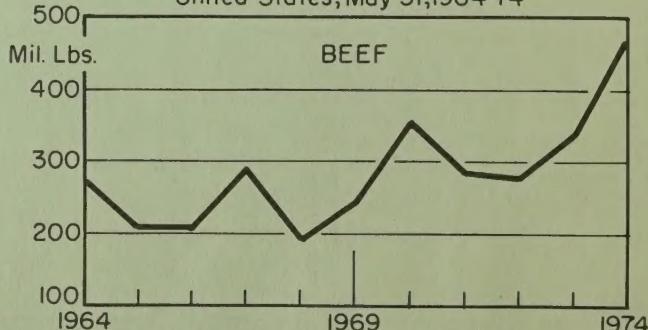
There were 416½ million pounds of pork in cold storage on May 31. This was an increase of 11 million pounds from a month earlier and 158 million pounds above May 31, 1973. However, the amount of pork in cold storage at the end of May was 16 percent less than on that date three years ago.

Beef stocks in cold storage on May 31 totaled 461 million pounds. While this was a decrease of 9 million pounds from a month earlier, it was 126 million pounds more than May 31, 1973 and a record amount of beef in storage for that date going back to 1950.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat
United States

Commodity	May 31, 1972	May 31, 1973	April 30, 1974	May 31, 1974	Change from last year
1,000 pounds					Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	266,520	324,221	457,952	449,516	+ 39
In cure and cured	10,066	11,354	12,843	11,860	+ 4
Total	276,586	335,575	470,795	461,376	+ 37
Pork:					
Frozen	359,435	243,566	389,346	400,593	+ 64
In cooler	22,064	15,216	15,933	15,913	+ 5
Total	381,499	258,782	405,279	416,506	+ 61
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	8,896	11,799	14,144	14,154	+ 20
Lamb and mutton, frozen	19,916	15,644	14,125	17,067	+ 9
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	88,404	60,600	84,653	95,332	+ 57
Other meats	22,238	15,212	16,774	16,348	+ 7
Total, all meats	797,539	697,612	1,005,770	1,020,783	+ 46

COLD STORAGE STOCKS
United States, May 31, 1964-74



1973 MANUFACTURED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Dairy plants in Wisconsin continued to increase their production of cheese in 1973 while reducing the output of butter. Total cheese production exceeded a billion pounds for the second straight year. The State's cheese plants manufactured nearly 1 percent more cheese during 1973 than a year earlier, continuing the upward trend which began in 1963. Record amounts of Italian, Muenster, and Blue cheese were produced in 1973.

American cheese production amounted to 720 million pounds for 1973, down about 2 percent from 1972. Output of Swiss cheese in 1973 was 13 percent below a year earlier while production of Muenster showed little change from 1972. Brick cheese production was up 18 percent in 1973 and Italian cheese increased 11 percent. Output of limburger during 1973 was 46 percent greater than in 1972 and all other cheese had a gain of 1 percent.

Wisconsin creameries churned only 179 million pounds of butter during 1973, a decline of 10 percent from 1972 and the lowest production since 1952.

Manufactured Dairy Products, Wisconsin, 1972-73

Product	Unit	1972	1973	Change from last year
		Thousands		Percent
Creamery butter (including whey butter)	Lb.	198,699	179,406	- 10
Cheese				
American	Lb.	731,704	720,104	- 2
Cheddar	Lb.	618,330	588,476	- 5
Other types 1/	Lb.	113,374	131,628	+ 16
Swiss	Lb.	37,747	32,764	- 13
Muenster	Lb.	35,753	35,720	n. c.
Brick	Lb.	14,423	17,060	+ 18
Brick and Muenster Total	Lb.	50,176	52,780	+ 5
Limburger	Lb.	1,180	1,728	+ 46
Italian	Lb.	179,435	199,674	+ 11
All other cheese (excluding cottage cheese)	Lb.	63,470	63,991	+ 1
Total cheese (excluding cottage cheese)	Lb.	1,063,712	1,071,041	+ 1
Condensed and powdered products				
Sweetened condensed whole milk (bulk goods)	Lb.	60,035	60,086	n. c.
Unsweetened condensed whole milk, (bulk goods)	Lb.	24,805	41,987	+ 69
Evaporated whole milk unsweetened, (case goods)	Lb.	2/	2/	xxx
Total condensed whole milk	Lb.	84,840	102,073	+ 20
Condensed skim milk (bulk goods)				
Sweetened	Lb.	40,404	48,614	+ 20
Unsweetened	Lb.	182,994	127,012	- 31
Total sweetened and unsweetened skim milk	Lb.	223,398	175,626	- 21
Condensed whey	Lb.	63,352	94,156	+ 49
Dried skim milk for human use	Lb.	139,901	89,242	- 36
Dried skim milk for animal feed	Lb.	609	446	- 27
Total Dried Skim Milk	Lb.	140,510	89,688	- 36
Dried whole milk	Lb.	5,378	4,527	- 16
Dried buttermilk	Lb.	8,156	8,573	+ 5
Dried whey for human use	Lb.	130,534	154,566	+ 18
Dried whey for animal feed	Lb.	223,494	202,799	- 9
Total Dried Whey	Lb.	354,028	357,365	+ 1
Malted milk powder	Lb.	16,515	16,263	- 2
Other products				
Ice cream	Gal.	18,893	16,006	- 15
Ice milk	Gal.	4,893	5,431	+ 11
Cottage cheese curd	Lb.	43,644	40,597	- 7
Cottage cheese creamed 3/	Lb.	60,241	57,844	- 4

1/Includes Colby, Jack, Monterey and Granular. 2/Production not shown when less than 3 plants reported or individual plant operations might be disclosed.

3/Includes lowfat creamed cottage cheese in 1973.

TART CHERRY CROP EXPECTED TO BE WELL ABOVE LAST YEAR

Production of tart cherries in the Nation for 1974 is expected to be 123,650 tons, an increase of 42 percent from the short 1973 crop. Michigan, the leading tart cherry state, expects a production of 95,000 tons compared with only 58,000 tons from the freeze damaged crop in 1973.

Wisconsin's cherry production in 1974 is forecast at 3,700 tons, an increase of 1,300 tons from the small 1973 crop. Conditions vary considerably from the southern part of the cherry growing area to the northern tip of Door County and Washington Island. Frost on May 6-7 damaged the blossom in widely scattered areas.

JUNE CROP REPORT

Farmers in parts of Wisconsin were still trying to finish planting of corn and soybeans in late June. Periods of heavy rain left lowlands very wet, particularly in the east and southeast. The corn crop was behind normal in development due to cold, wet weather in May, delays in planting, and some replanting necessitated by poor germination. Oats and small grains were doing very well and heading out. First crop haying had been slowed by rain, soft fields, and a later maturity this year. Only 20 percent of the first crop was harvested by the last week of June compared with 35 percent a year ago and 40 percent normally. Good weather conditions in the last week of June would be very helpful for harvesting the large first crop of hay which is lodging and becoming rank.

Transplanting of tobacco is going on but is behind normal because the cold, wet weather in May held back plant growth. Vegetable crops look good in the central sandy area of Wisconsin but suffered rain and hail damage in the south. Harvesting of early peas is underway but planting of sweet corn lagged behind usual due to wet fields in the east and south. A good strawberry crop is being picked.

Rainfall in Inches, by Districts, Wisconsin

District	Month of May			Since April 1		
	1973	1974	Normal	1973	1974	Normal
Northwest	5.4	3.7	3.7	7.1	7.0	6.4
North Central	6.9	3.8	3.7	9.7	7.8	6.4
Northeast	7.9	4.4	3.2	12.0	7.6	6.0
West Central	6.9	4.7	3.8	11.7	7.5	6.8
Central	8.2	6.8	3.6	13.4	9.4	6.8
East Central	7.0	6.2	2.9	10.7	9.3	5.8
Southwest	6.2	5.7	3.7	13.1	8.9	6.6
South Central	6.3	6.5	3.3	13.2	10.6	6.4
Southeast	4.8	6.0	3.4	11.4	9.8	6.4

BEEF CATTLE PRICES CONTINUE LOWER

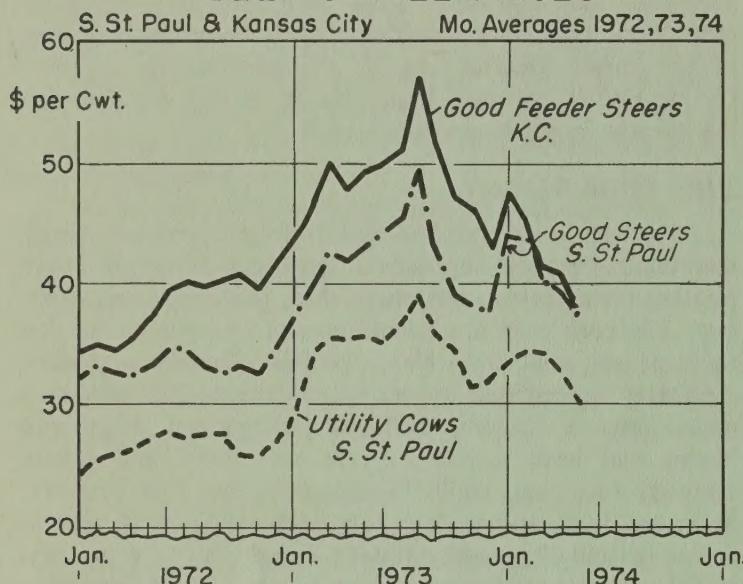
Prices of good grade fed steers at St. Paul and feeder steers at Kansas City continued to decline in May as did utility grade cows at St. Paul. Good grade feeder steers at the Kansas City market averaged \$37.55 a hundredweight during May, down \$3.48 from April and the fourth consecutive month of lower prices for feeder cattle. A year ago in May the average price of good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds was \$49.70 a hundredweight.

Good grade fed steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$38.20 a hundredweight at the St. Paul market in May. This was a decline of \$1.37 from a month

earlier. Fed steer prices at St. Paul have been on the decline since January of this year and the May price was \$5.07 under a year ago.

Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$30.01 a hundredweight for May, a decline of \$2.79 from the previous month and \$5.66 below last year. This was the lowest price for utility cows at St. Paul since January 1973.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES

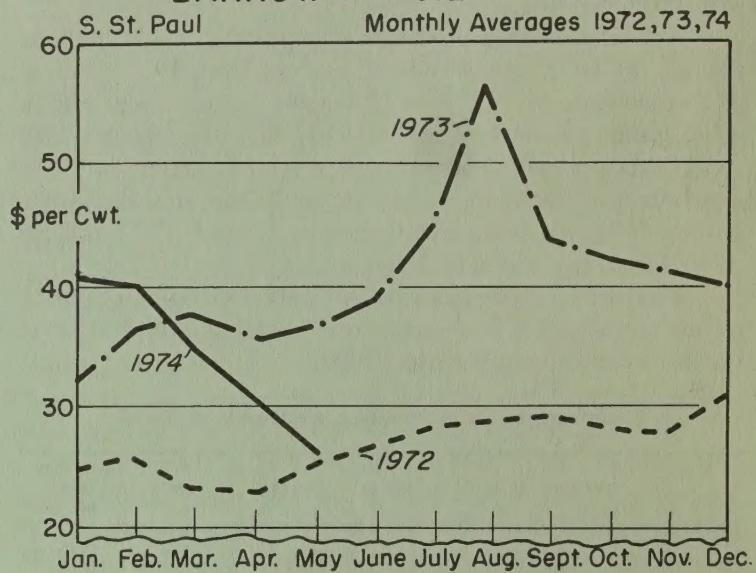


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HOG MARKET AGAIN DECLINES SHARPLY

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market took another sharp drop during May. Barrows and gilts averaged \$26.22 a hundredweight for May, down \$4.61 from April and \$10.35 below May 1973.

BARROW and GILT PRICES



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